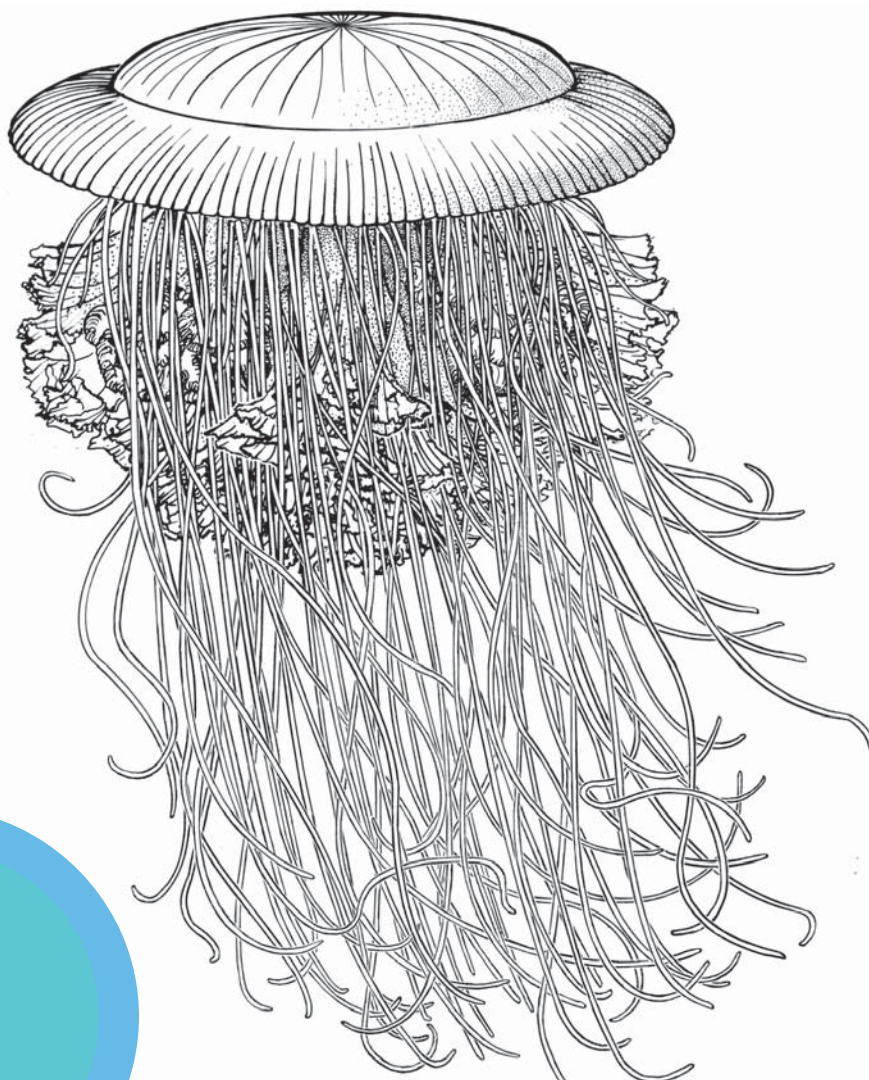
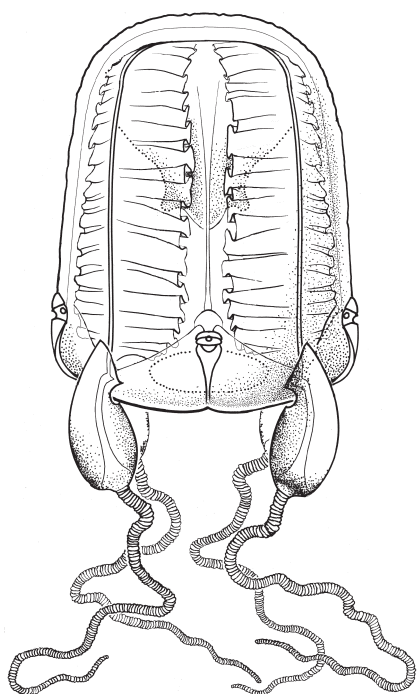


Prepared by the Southeastern Regional Taxonomic Center,

South Carolina Department of Natural Resources



*An illustrated key to the
Scyphozoa and Cubozoa
of the South Atlantic Bight*

Dale R. Calder

Curator Emeritus, Royal Ontario Museum

With illustrations by Patrice Stephens-Bourgeault

An Illustrated key to Cubozoan and Scyphozoan jellyfishes of the South Atlantic Bight

Dale R. Calder

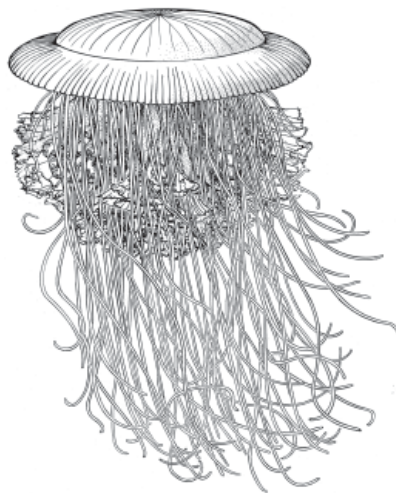
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Introduction

A illustrated key is presented for the identification of three species of cubomedusae (*Alatina alata*, *Tamoya haplonema*, *Chiropsalmus quadrumanus*) and 13 species and subspecies of scyphomedusae (*Atolla wyvillei*, *Linuche unguiculata*, *Nausithoe punctata*, *Periphylla periphylla*, *Chrysaora quinquecirrha*, *Pelagia noctiluca*, *Cyanea capillata fulva*, *C. capillata versicolor*, *Drymonema dalmatina*, *Aurelia marginalis*, *Phyllorhiza punctata*, *Rhopilema verrilli*, *Stomolophus meleagris*) reported from the South Atlantic Bight of the United States (Cape Hatteras, North Carolina to Cape Canaveral, Florida).



1. Tentacles present on umbrella (on margin or underside).....4

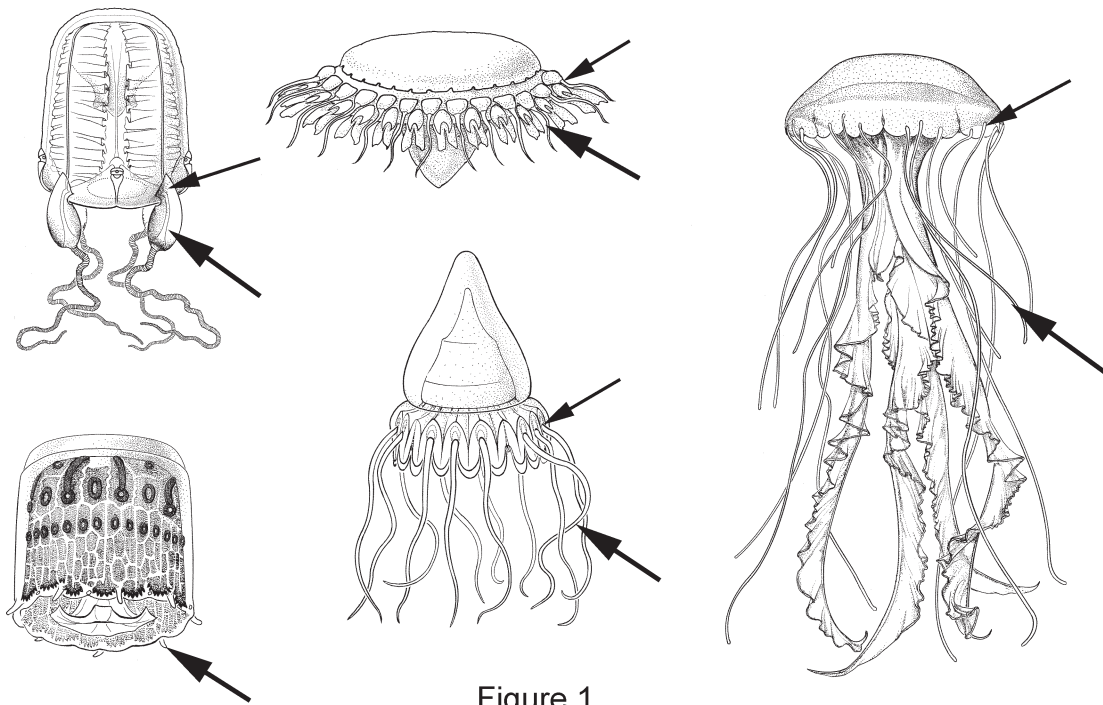


Figure 1

— Tentacles lacking on umbrella.....2

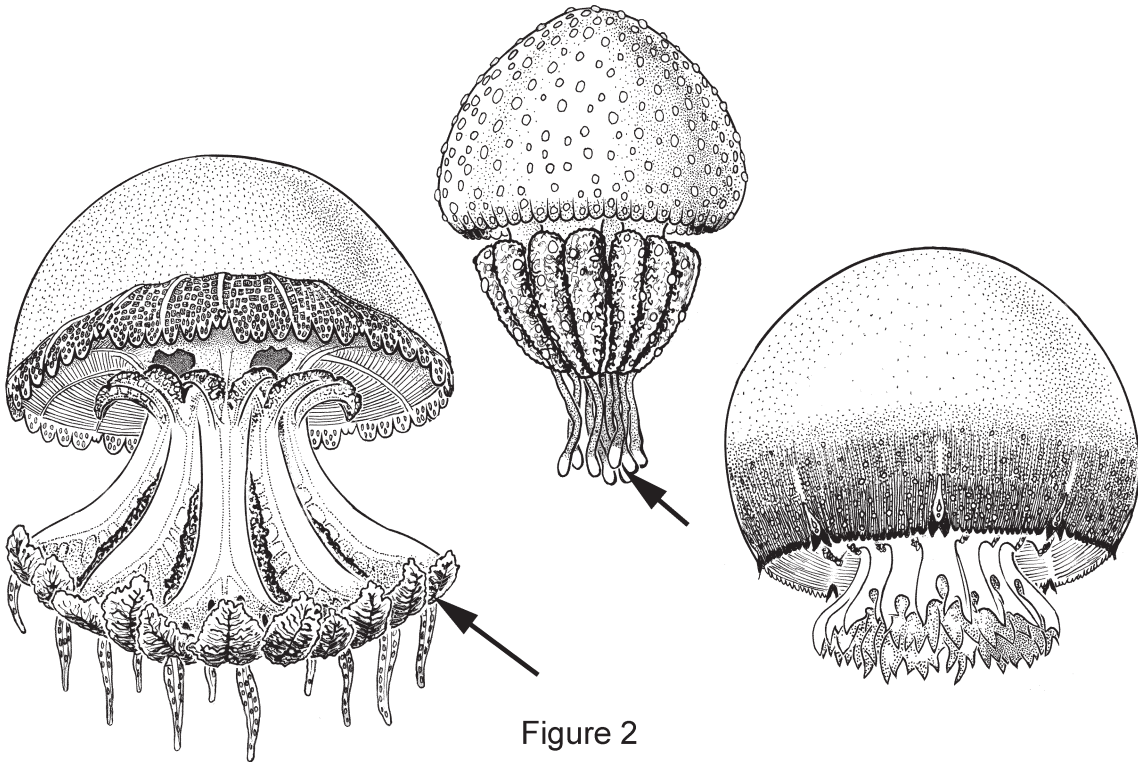


Figure 2

2. Umbrella almost spherical, with distinct brown band around margin; appendages lacking on mouth-arms.....*Stomolophus meleagris*

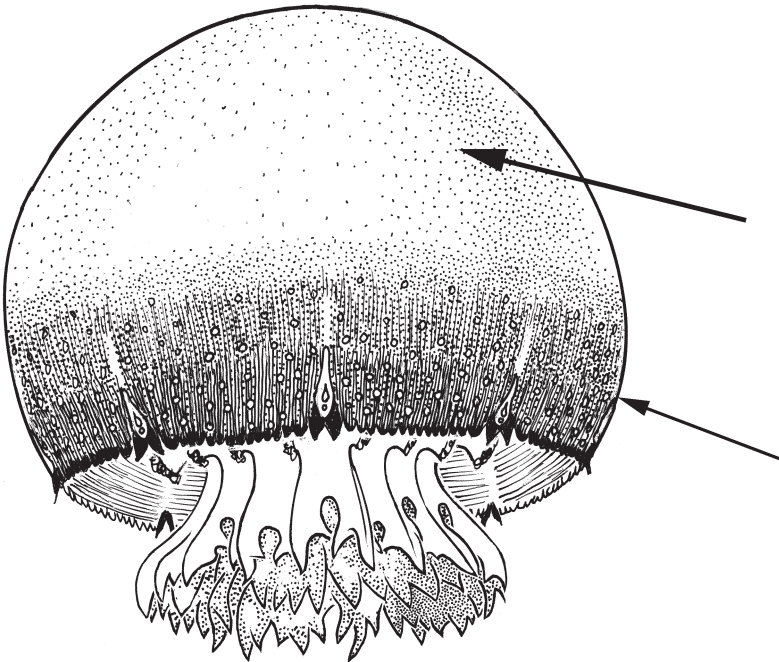


Figure 3: *Stomolophus meleagris*

—Umbrella not spherical (flattened or pointed), lacking brown band around margin; appendages or filaments on lower surface of mouth-arms.....3

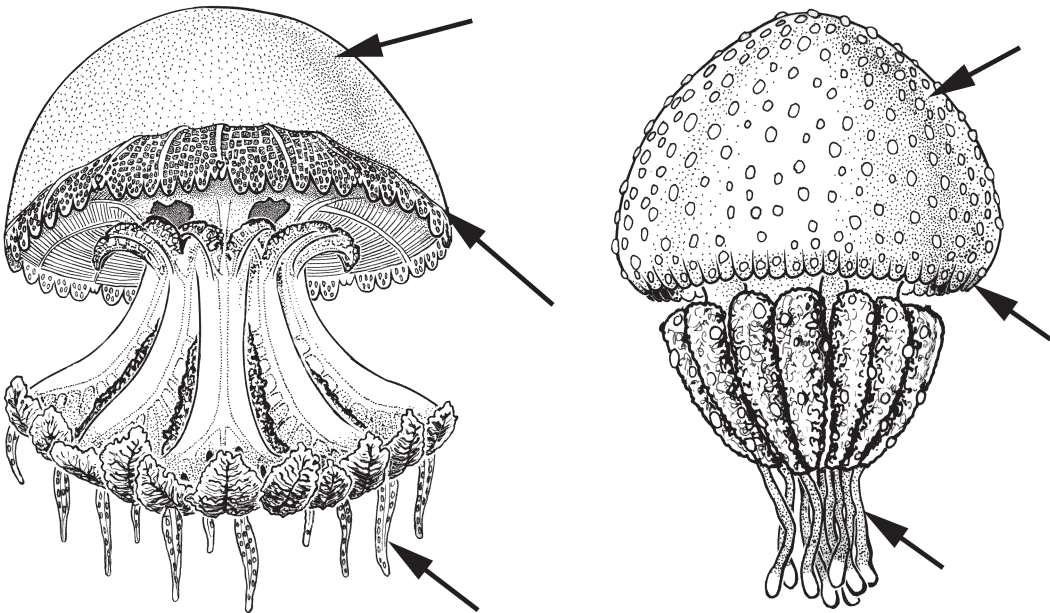


Figure 4

3. Mouth-arms with stout finger-like appendages; scapulets (“shoulder ruffles”) present; umbrella without prominent white spots.....*Rhopilema verrilli*

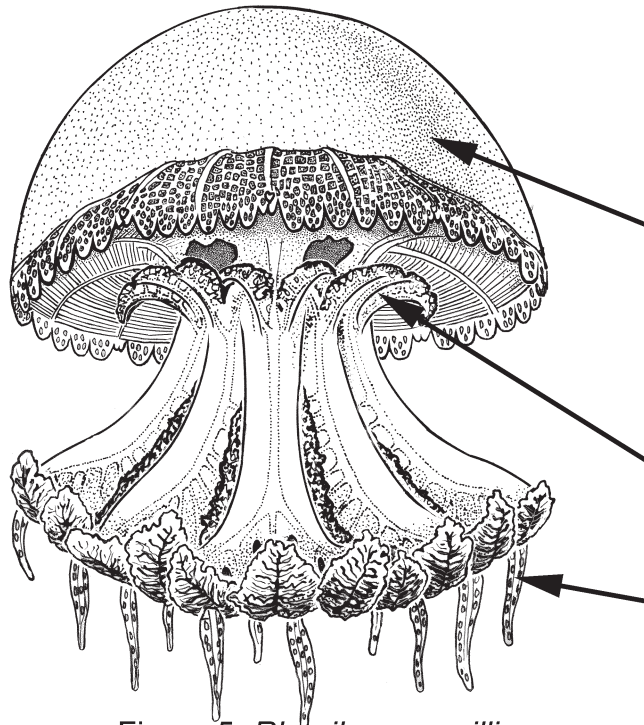


Figure 5: *Rhopilema verrilli*

- Mouth-arms with long and slender filaments basally; scapulets absent; umbrella with numerous prominent white spots.....*Phyllorhiza punctata*

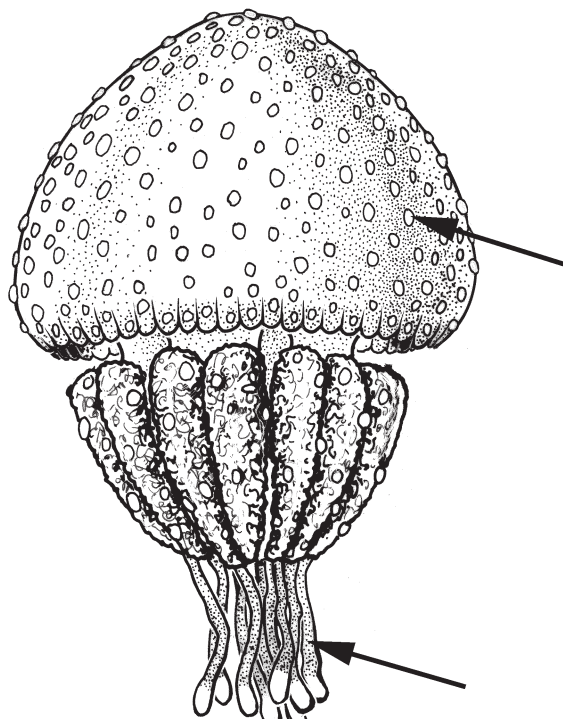


Figure 6: *Phyllorhiza punctata*

4. Tentacles on underside of umbrella.....5

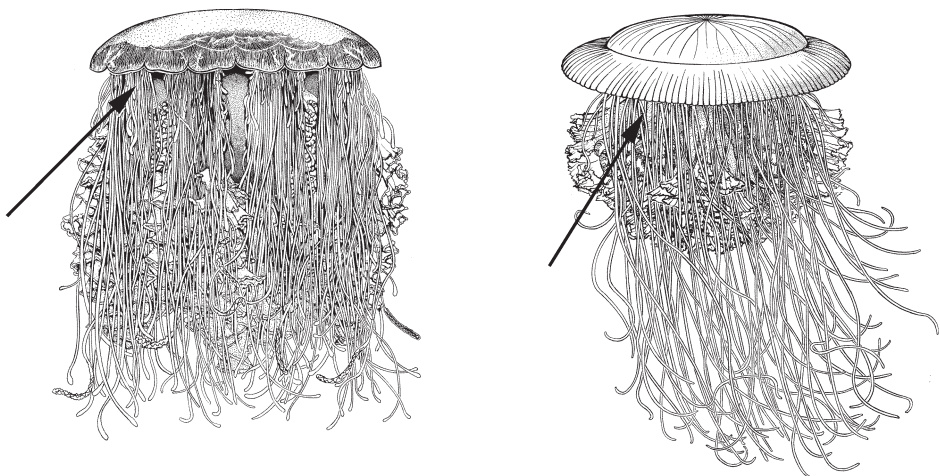


Figure 7

—Tentacles on margin of umbrella.....7

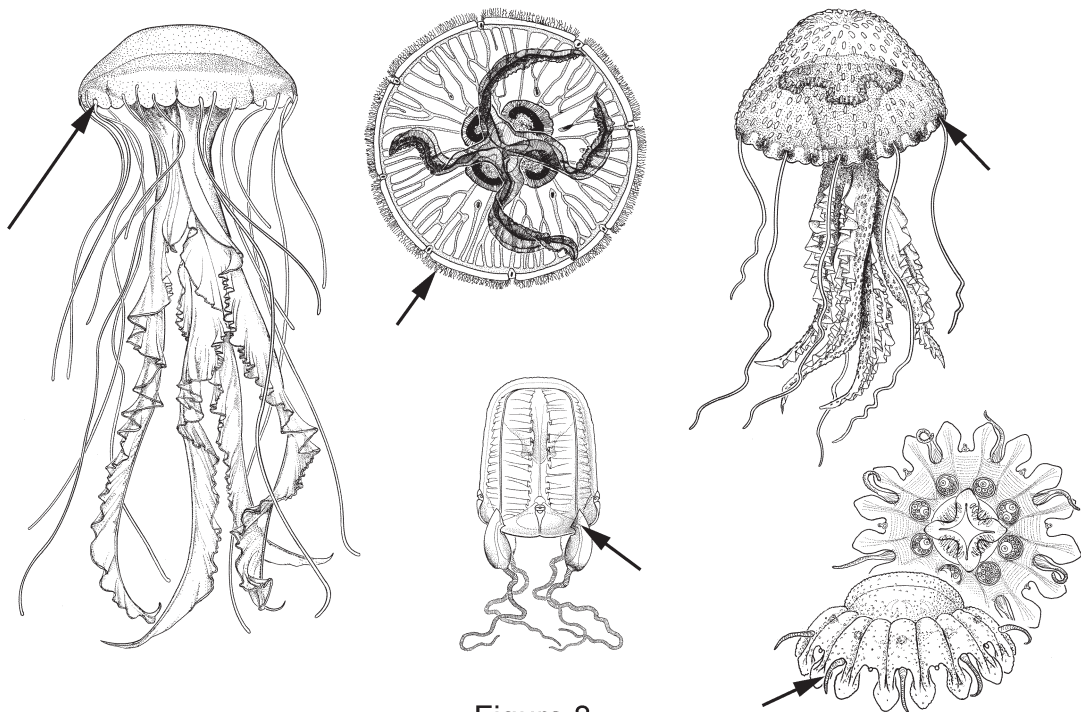


Figure 8

5. Tentacles in a wide band around underside of umbrella; medusae large (to 1 m in diameter)
*Drymonema dalmatinum*

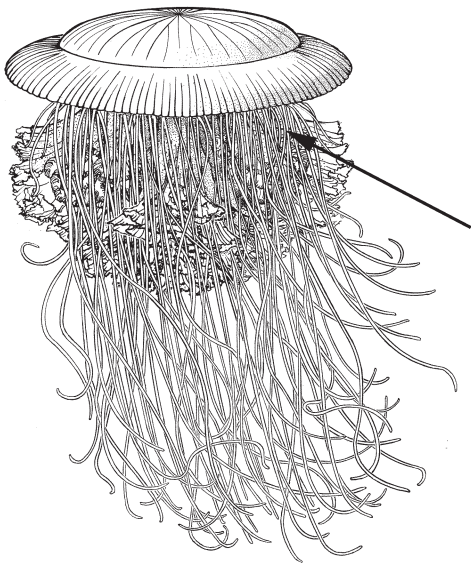


Figure 9: *Drymonema dalmatinum*

— Tentacles in 8 U-shaped clusters on underside of umbrella; medusae smaller (to about 20 cm in diameter).....6

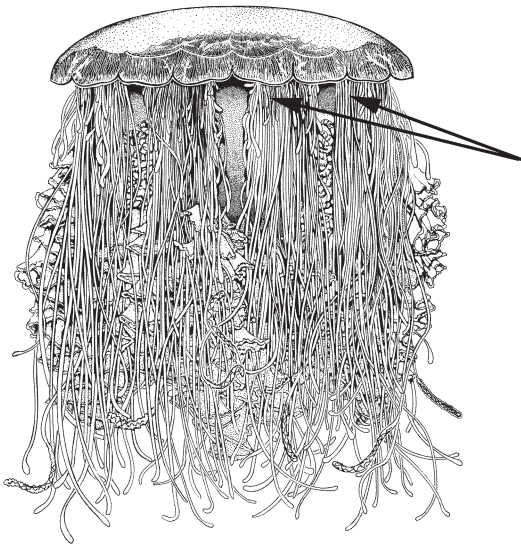


Figure 10

6. Medusa purplish pink to deep red.....*Cyanea capillata versicolor*
(no image)

— Medusa yellow to yellow-brown, resembling a fried egg.....*Cyanea capillata fulva*



Figure 11: *Cyanea capillata fulva*

7. Umbrella flat, plate-shaped, with numerous small tentacles around margin, with four horseshoe-shaped gonads centrally.....*Aurelia marginalis*

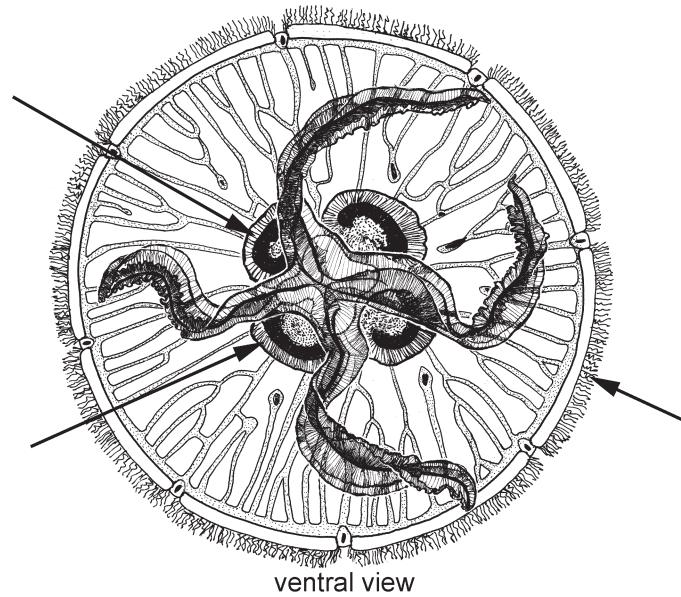


Figure 12: *Aurelia marginalis*

- Umbrella, tentacles, and gonads not as above.....8

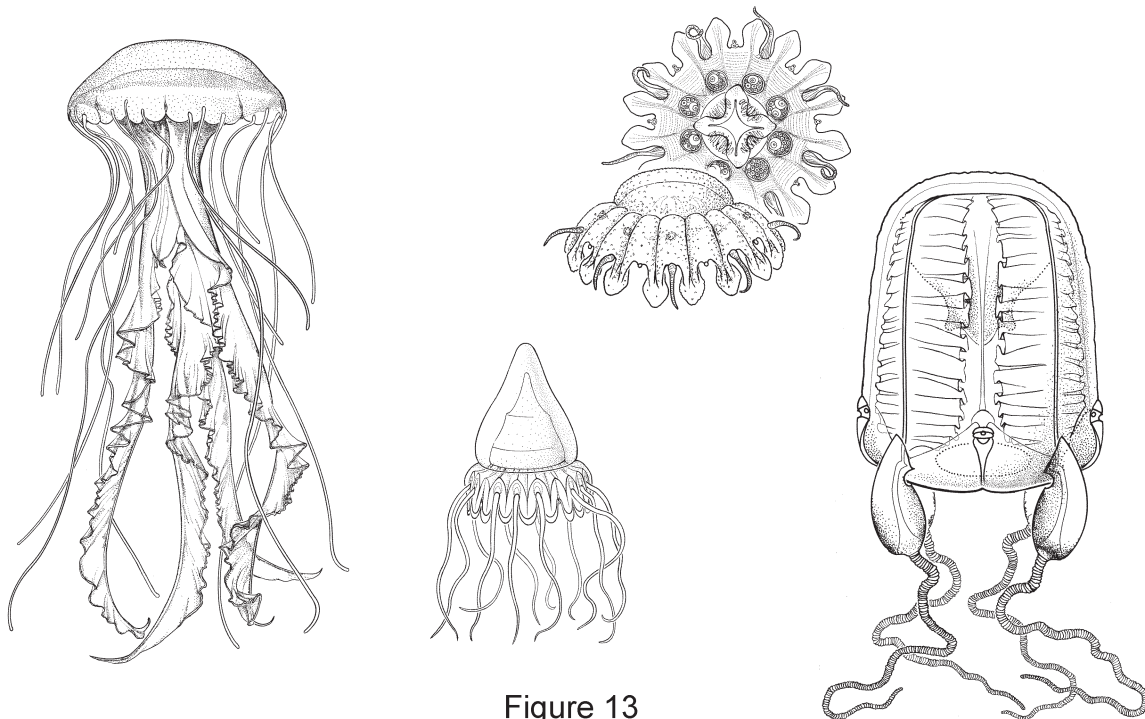


Figure 13

8. Umbrella cuboidal; tentacles arising from each of four interradial corners.....14

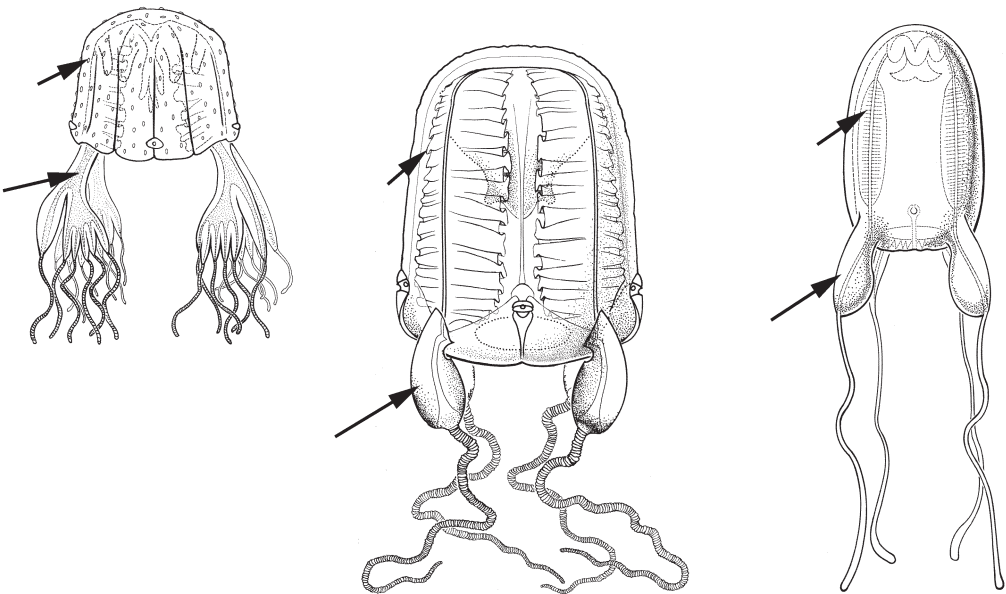


Figure 14

— Umbrella not cuboidal; tentacles not restricted to four interradial corners.....9

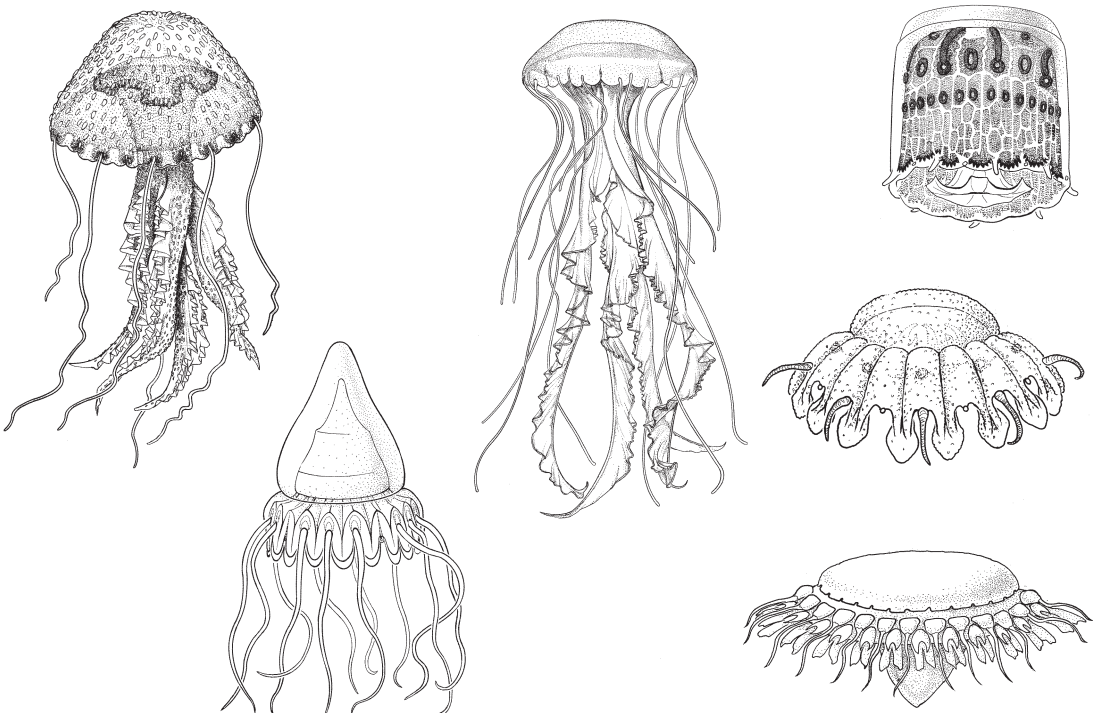


Figure 15

9. Umbrella with distinct circular groove on upper surface.....11

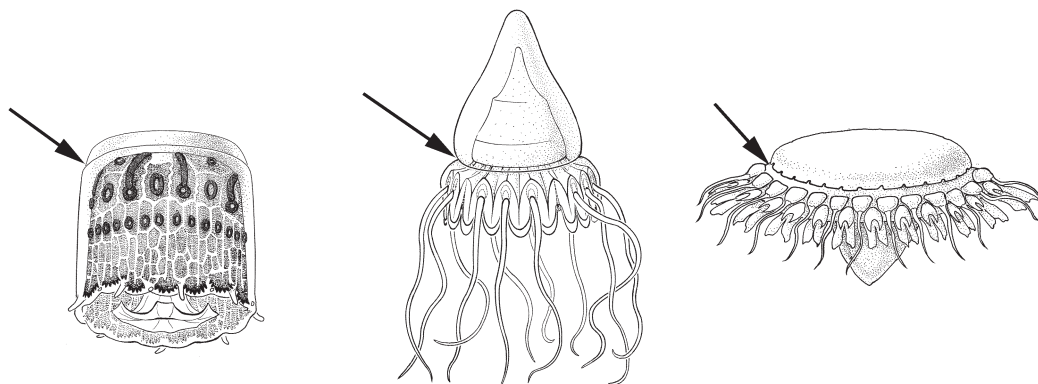


Figure 16

— Umbrella without distinct circular groove on upper surface.....10

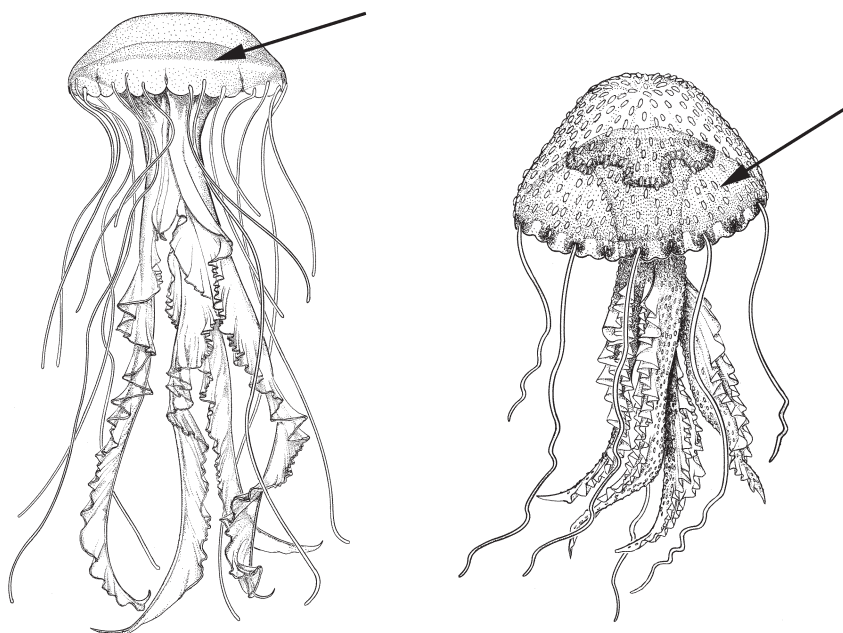


Figure 17

10. Umbrella with small wart-like clusters of stinging organelles; margin with 3-5 or more long tentacles in each of eight groups; most prevalent in estuarine and inshore waters.....*Chrysaora quinquecirrha*

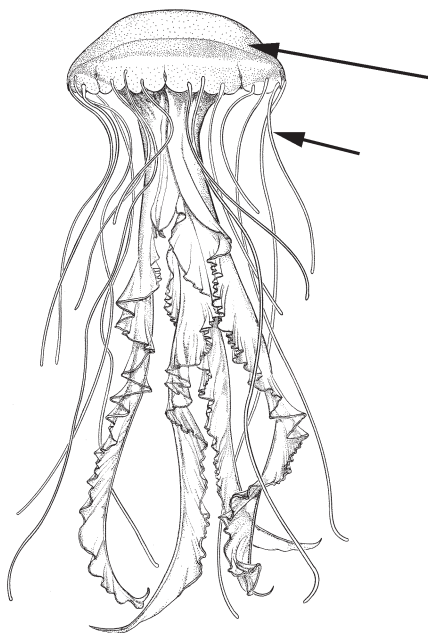


Figure 18: *Chrysaora quinquecirrha*

— Umbrella with distinctly elevated gelatinous mounds; margin with eight long tentacles; usually restricted to offshore waters.....*Pelagia noctiluca*

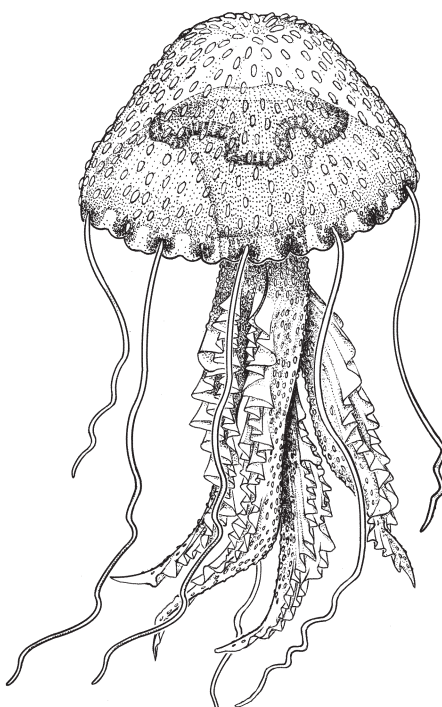


Figure 19: *Pelagia noctiluca*

11. Umbrella higher than a hemisphere.....12

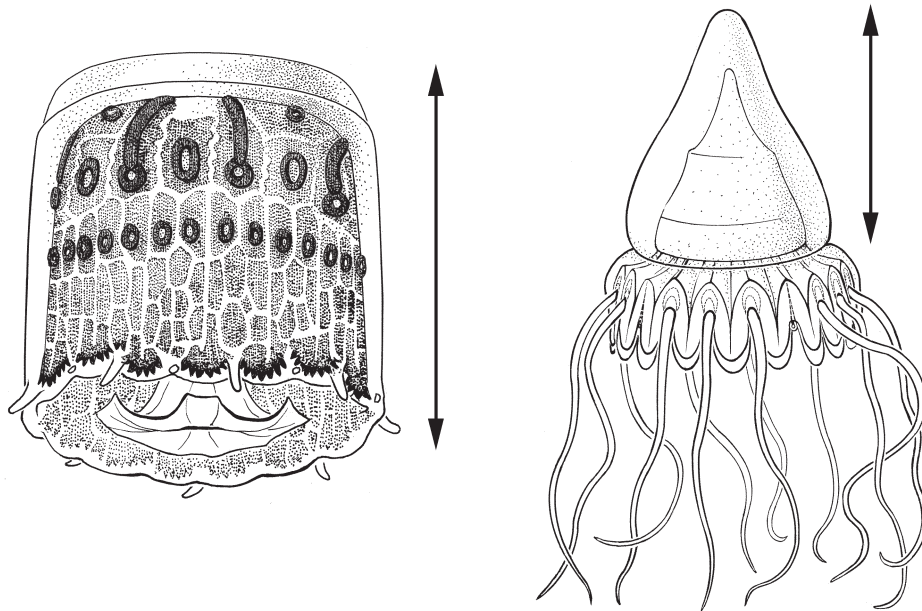


Figure 20

— Umbrella decidedly flattened.....13

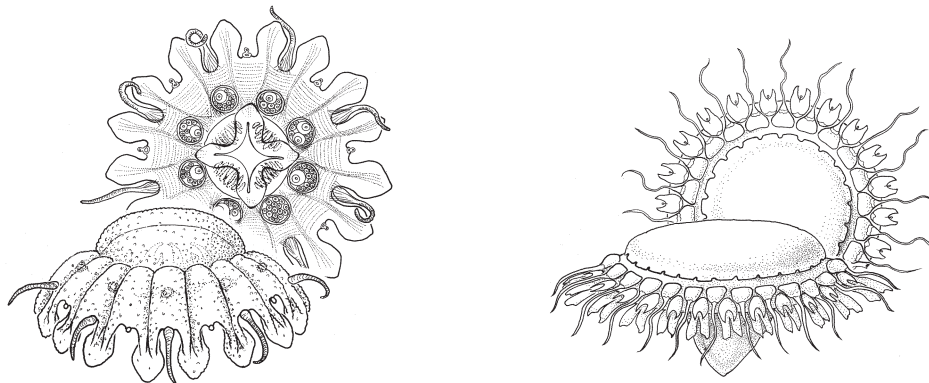


Figure 21

12. Umbrella small (to 2 cm high), thimble-shaped, brownish in color; tentacles short, inconspicuous; in surface and near-surface waters offshore.....*Linuche unguiculata*

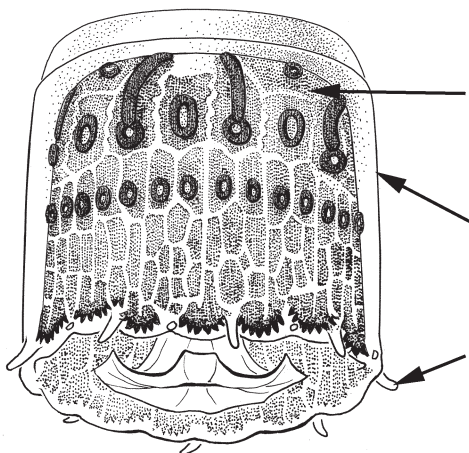


Figure 22: *Linuche unguiculata*

— Umbrella large (to 25 cm high), cone- to dome-shaped, red in color; tentacles long, conspicuous; in deep waters offshore.....*Periphylla periphylla*

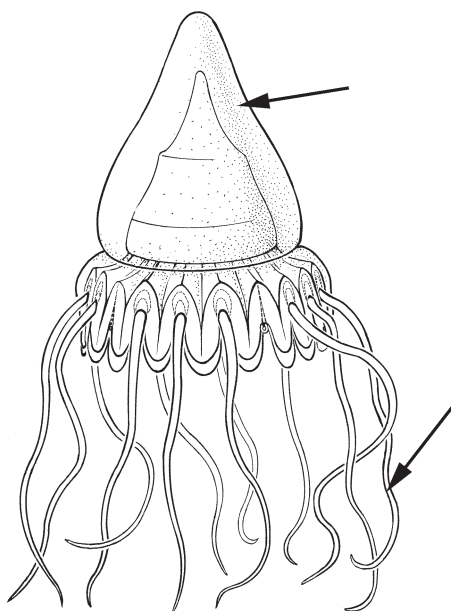


Figure 23: *Periphylla periphylla*

13. Umbrella very small (to 1.5 cm wide); tentacles eight; gonads forming eight globular masses on undersurface of umbrella.....*Nausithoe punctata*

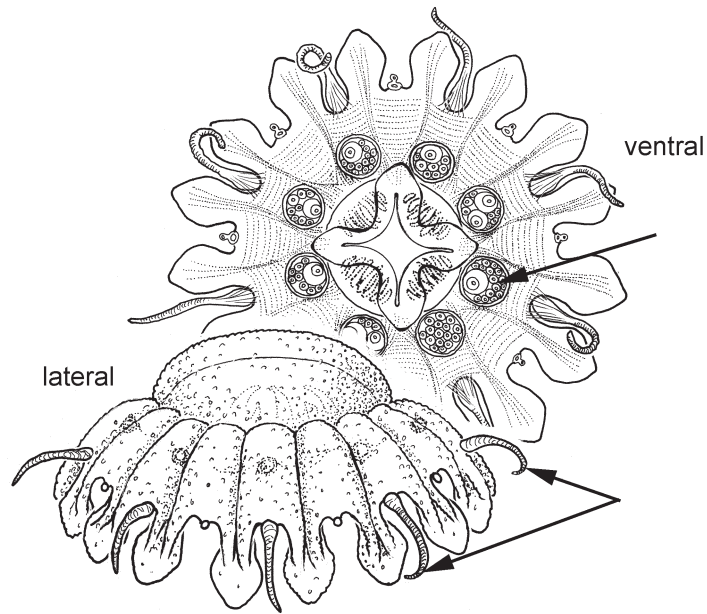


Figure 24: *Nausithoe punctata*

—Umbrella larger (to 15 cm wide), with thick central lens; tentacles usually 22 (sometimes more)
.....*Atolla wyvillei*

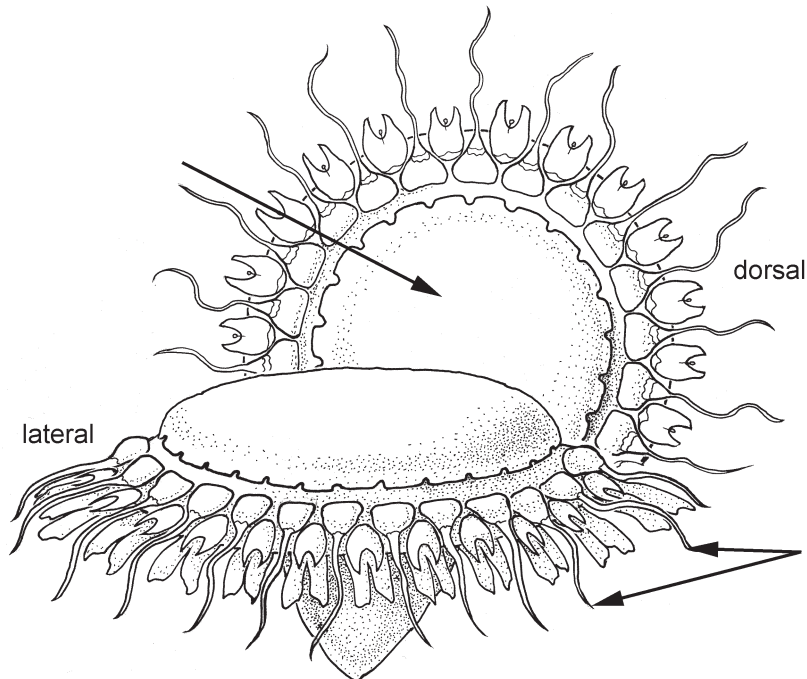


Figure 25: *Atolla wyvillei*

14. Umbrella generally as broad as high; about 7-9 tentacles on each of four hand-shaped pedalia.....*Chiropsalmus quadumanus*

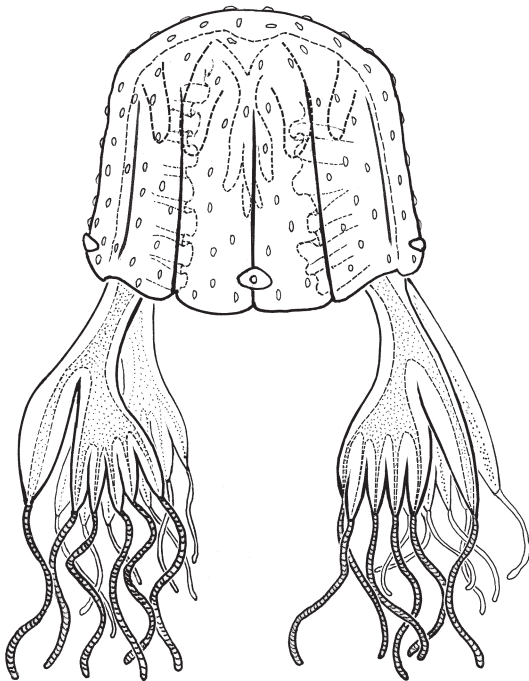


Figure 26: *Chiropsalmus quadumanus*

— Umbrella distinctly higher than wide; tentacles one on each of four paddle-shaped pedalia.....15

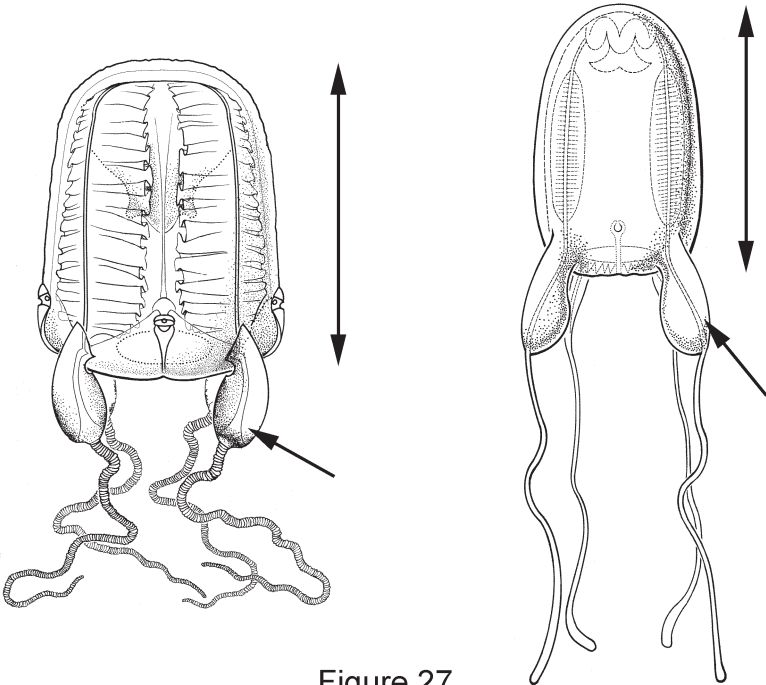


Figure 27

15. Medusa with large, deep, cross-shaped stomach; rhopaliar niche opening a horizontal or crescent-shaped slit (detail not drawn).....
Tamoya haplonema

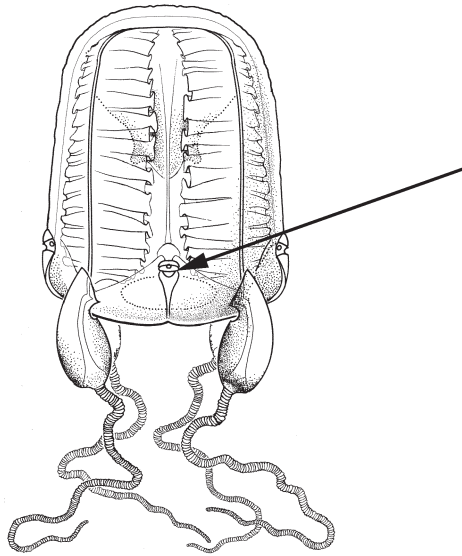


Figure 28: *Tamoya haplonema*

- Medusa with shallow, flask-shaped stomach; rhopaliar niche opening T-shaped (detail not drawn).....
Alatina alata

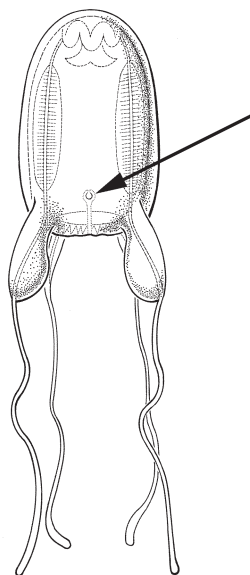


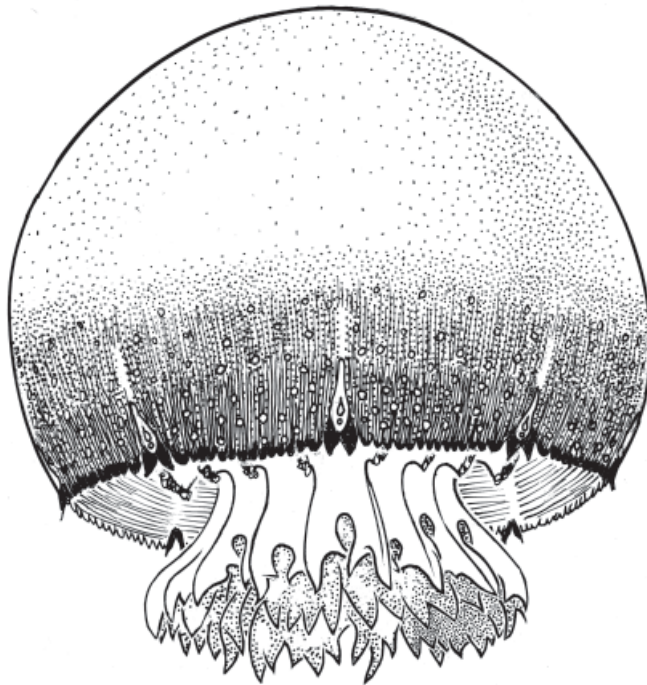
Figure 29: *Alatina alata*

Acknowledgements

This key is only part of a more extensive study that will be published shortly through the Royal Ontario Museum. I am grateful to the staff members of the Southeastern Regional Taxonomic Center, Marine Resources Research Institute (MRRI), South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, Charleston, SC, for their encouragement and help in undertaking this study.

Illustrations herein were prepared by Patrice Stephens-Bourgeault, of Studio Stephens-Bourgeault in Toronto, and I thank her for her artwork.

Funds in support of this research were provided by the Southeastern Regional Taxonomic Center through NMFS grant #NA16FL1490, the National Science Foundation (Partnerships for Enhancing Expertise in Taxonomy Program), the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, and the Royal Ontario Museum.



This illustrated key was prepared by Rachael A. King for the Southeastern Regional Taxonomic Center (SERTC), South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.

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July 2008



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